

Evidence Discussion

(PN 6.2) **EviCore**
By EVERNORTH

Muscle Diseases

- MRI is supported in known or suspected muscle disease to identify involved muscle(s).¹ MRI may highlight muscle edema and pathology at the potential biopsy site.² MRI is helpful to avoid a false-negative biopsy.^{2,3}
- The ordering of tests should be based on the differential diagnosis arrived at by the history and examination. Laboratory evaluation is often a critical initial step to guide further investigations. Nerve conduction studies and EMG aid in making the diagnosis of neuromuscular disorders and are best conceptualized as extensions of the history and neurologic examination.⁴
- MRI of the affected muscle is supported in the evaluation of patients with suspected Inflammatory Myopathy to help identify a reversible etiology such as Immune-Mediated Necrotizing Myopathy.⁵
- MRI of affected muscle is supported in the diagnosis and follow-up of patients with Inflammatory Myopathies, such as Dermatomyositis, Polymyositis and Inclusion Body Myositis to identify disease specific patterns and evaluate response to treatment.^{6,7, 8}
- Inflammatory Muscle Diseases, including Dermatomyositis and Polymyositis, have been associated with malignancy. Initial and repeat imaging with CT Chest and/or Abdomen and Pelvis are supported to evaluate for associated cancers, such as adenocarcinomas.⁹

References

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